

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಗೋಪಾಲಗೌಡ.—ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸ್‌ಪೋರ್ಟ್ ಕಂಪೆನಿಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವೇನು ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Probably it does not arise out of this question, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER—Please refer to clause (c) of the answer ; perhaps he bases his question on that.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—The other routes which are under my contemplation are those that do not come within the purview of the B.T.C.

Overloading in Government Transport Buses.

Q.—125. Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK (Molakalmuru).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) whether they are aware that Government Transport Services are being overloaded of late ;

(b) whether it is permissible under the Rules ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the authorities are encouraging overloading with a view to get more collections ;

(d) whether the Management or the Government have received complaints of such overloading from the general public.

(e) what the trip sheets for the last three months do reveal in Chitaldrug and Bangalore lines in the matter of overloading ?

A.—Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA (Minister for Home and Industries).—

(a) Concession to carry to the extent of 25 per cent excess passengers in Government Buses has been permitted in view of the pressure of traffic on monopolised routes purely for the convenience of short distance passengers subject to certain conditions.

(b) The provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act and the Mysore Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Rules have been kept in view while granting this concession.

(c) No.

(d) Specific instances of overloading brought to the notice of the management have been investigated and dealt with as per rules.

No instances have been brought to the notice of Government.

(e) Certain cases of overloading on the Chitaldrug—Bangalore line brought to the notice of the Department (according to the trip sheets) have on verification revealed that the limits and specifications prescribed have not been overlooked.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Is the Government extending the same concession to private buses also, Sir ? the concession of overloading to the extent of 25 per cent ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—That does not arise. So far as private buses are concerned, there are many of them. This is a necessity in the regions where the routes are monopolised and only Government buses and no other buses, are run.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Can you not increase the number of buses and see that proper accommodation is given without overloading ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Yes, I have thought of it ; I have been at it. I am getting new buses by the end of this month or by the middle of the next.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Is not the Government Road Transport a business concern, Sir ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Yes.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Between the two business concerns, i.e. between the Government Road Transport and the private buses, why should you differentiate ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—The Road Transport deserves preferential treatment, Sir.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Well, this business concern is meant to give more facilities to the public than the private buses, is it not, Sir ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—It has to perform a dual function, namely giving more facilities to the public and also earn more money.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Is it not more to give facilities rather than to earn more money ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I submit, Sir, both.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—You have to earn more money. But is it not after providing for the convenience of passengers?

Sri K. HANUMANTHAIYA.—Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in charge has already stated that he is taking steps to see that there is no over-loading.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—When Government itself is going against the rules in this matter, why should they prosecute private bus-owners when they over-load even to the extent one or two? You have allowed to the extent of 25 per cent more?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I have to dispel an impression created by the vehemence of my friend in saying that Government are going against the rule. Government are acting under proper authority and that authority is the Motor vehicles Act which provides for such a contingency. I have availed myself of the provision in Motor Vehicles Act, and I invite the attention of the Hon'ble Member to Section 68 of the Motor Vehicles Act wherein they have laid down that subject to the permission of the Government under given circumstances, over-loading is permissible to a certain extent.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Yes, but the question is whether that rule does not expect you to consider the human aspect. Overloading may be, to the extent of one or two or four. But my Hon'ble friend has permitted to the extent of 25 per cent. What will be the inconvenience caused to passengers? Should you not imagine that?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Sir, in order to obviate inconvenience to the passengers and in their interest this over-loading is allowed, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Anyhow, the Hon'ble Minister has stated that he will set right the inconvenience.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—I am putting some more questions, Sir. Well, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister says that the trip-sheets do not reveal any huge over-loading. Does it not show

that the trip-sheets have been so adjusted as to be within the maximum limit permitted by you?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—The trip-sheets disclose the actual state of affairs, as to the actual number of passengers that travelled during that particular journey.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Is it not also possible to put it like this, Sir? The trip-sheets are adjusted to show only the maximum limit permissible and has it come to the notice of the Government that this over-loading has filled the pockets of many of these Conductors and Drivers and that the public have been making such complaints day in and day out?

Mr. SPEAKER.—There is an answer to it saying that if any such instances are brought to notice they would take proper action.

Sri A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK.—Once they say that specific instances brought to the notice of the management have been investigated and dealt with as per rules and at another time they say that no such instances have come to notice. Which is to be believed, Sir?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I would request my Hon'ble friend to draw a very clear line of distinction. Such instances as are brought to the notice of the management, namely, the General Manager, Government Road Transport, have been dealt with. No clear case has been brought to my notice and I depend on the report of the General Manager. If any such thing takes place, I would be very willing to take action if it is brought to my notice; I will certainly give my utmost consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER.—That will do.

(The Hon'ble Member was still standing to put questions).

Mr. SPEAKER.—When the Chair is speaking, the Hon'ble Members are expected to resume their seats. Questions are over. The House will now proceed to the next item on the agenda.